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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 17, 1900.

THE BONDS AND THE "NEWS."

Notwithstanding the light vote cast on the bonds proposition, the majority in its favor was large enough to satisfy the friends of the movement, and to demonstrate the trend of public sentiment. It also made very clear to thoughtful people the weakness of a cause founded on falsehood, and a fight waged on misrepresentation.

The facts and figures presented to the public as reasons why the bonds should be issued, were met by an array of other figures, so manipulated as to convey direct untruths and libellous insinuations. The motives of men whom the people have chosen as their representatives, and who will not have the letting of a contract or the handling of any funds obtained from the sale of the bonds, have been shamefully misrepresented, and it is a matter of congratulation to them and to the public that these defamations have signally failed.

The Deseret News took an active part in the contest—if such it may be called—for these reasons:

There is a dangerous lack of water for general purposes in this city. As the season advances this becomes more and more apparent. The scarcity threatened from time to time is very pronounced this year. The trouble coming from that cause is exaggerated by the defects in the system of distribution. Large pipes are fed from smaller pipes, thus diminishing the needed pressure. And there are hundreds of "dead ends" in the pipe system which ought to be and must be connected. The contract already let, and the piping which will soon be ready for the work devised, are to correct these deficiencies and give us a permanent distributing system, on correct principles, by which such water as may be obtained can be used fairly and to general advantage.

There is already much discomfort in the upper parts of houses in the business section of the city, from the entire failure in the water supply at night, beginning when the lawn sprinkling is in force at evening. What would be the consequence of the breaking out of a fire in any of those blocks? The reservoir which will soon be finished at the head of First South street will solve that problem. While there is such a scarcity of water that lawn sprinkling already has been limited narrowly, millions of gallons of Parley's creek water is being diverted for irrigation, which can be turned into the city pipes as soon as the owners of the land and water can be bought out, and this is also necessary to keep from pollution what water we have from that source.

Also, in the midst of this scarcity, the streets are being sprinkled with water needed for domestic use, when there is an abundance in the Salt Lake and Jordan canal running to waste. This ought to be utilized for street sprinkling, but cannot be used for that purpose without a pipe system, which will cost a considerable sum if it is made permanent, and it would be very poor economy to make it temporary.

It has been determined by competent engineers that by lowering the channel from Utah Lake, by which water comes to our canal and several other canals in this county, a very much larger volume of water can be obtained from that source of supply, and by straightening and widening the channel, a flow can be secured sufficient to form the basis of an exchange with farmers for Big Cottonwood water. The lake water is more suitable for irrigation than the cold water of Big Cottonwood, and the latter is better adapted to city purposes. The work of course will cost something considerable.

A large flow of water is running to waste in Liberty Park, and it is thought by a number of practical men that this could be pumped into the pipes in use in the lower parts of the city. If this can be done at all, it cannot be accomplished without money, and that is not available from the general funds.

There is another proposition well worthy of consideration. It is the possible exchange of Mill Creek water for Jordan and Salt Lake canal water. It could be brought, no doubt, in a very short time into use in this city, and as to its quality, there is no dispute.

Seeing these possibilities, and sensing the danger and the probable suffering, from the meagre supply and poor the distributing, the Deseret News was all the more in favor of the most effective and rapid remedies. The one thing needful to effect them was money. This could be obtained in two ways only. One, by levying an excessive special water tax, the other by issuing bonds for that purpose.

We decided in favor of the bonds, because an additional tax would be a most grievous burden on the poor taxpayer, and no tax of sufficient percentage could be levied this year to provide enough money for the work required. Also by issuing bonds at a low rate of interest, the weight would be

lightly left, and the increase of population and of property values, during the next decade or two, would divide the expense between the present and the future, and the burden would be easier and fairer than heavy immediate taxes.

Suspicious beings who invent mean motives, to account for the support given by the "News" and by prominent public men to the bonding proposition, thereby suggest a streak in their own nature that is not exactly honorable. They suspect others of their own defects. They have their answer in the fact that about double the number of our taxpaying citizens voted "Yes" than those who voted "No." As to the latter, they acted on their own volition and their undisputed rights, and were entitled to their opinions, which we have no reason and no disposition to revile.

The necessity of hastening the work of the piping, the reservoir, and the purchase and utilization of all the Parley's creek water yet to be obtained, should urge the city authorities to exertion in those directions. It is not expected that they will create water. It is expected that they will bring it into use, as soon as possible, the water that is available. We believe the work will go forward vigorously, and that every dollar raised by the bonds voted for will be spent for the purposes specified—to increase our water supply and provide for its more efficient distribution. With our own part in the controversy over the bonds we are satisfied and content.

PARTISAN MOTIVES.

A Democratic friend who voted "No" on the bonds proposition, explained to us his action in this way: "I voted on strictly partisan ground. I didn't want to put money into the hands of the opposition. I don't think it would be good politics to do so. It was only as a partisan that I voted No."

Now, while the present writer believes in giving proper support to the political party to which any citizen may belong, he does not view the great question of a sufficient water supply in a partisan light. It is a matter of public necessity, affecting people of all parties as individuals and as part of the community, entirely apart from political doctrines and party disputes.

There were Democrats as well as Republicans among the ardent supporters of the bonds when proposed, and also when the matter came to a vote at the polls. We are glad to know this, because the entire question is above the level of party considerations.

Suppose it became the rule here, that all Democrats should oppose the handling of public money by Republicans, and that when the "outs" become the "ins" all Republicans should try to prevent Democrats from carrying on any public measure requiring the use of public funds. What would be the consequence? How many improvements would be accomplished? Is the public welfare to be counted for nothing, and party advantage to be reckoned as everything?

That kind of partisanship does not recommend itself to our understanding. It does not appear to be good common sense. It is that which leads to the falsification, vilification and shameful perversion of facts and figures, resorted to by a partisan paper during the bonds dispute. We want none of it. We despise it. We do not hold the doctrine that a man must be dishonest because he does not agree with us in politics or in religion. We believe that men who gain the majority of votes for public office, should be given full opportunity to work for the public advantage, and should be supported in every worthy undertaking for the general welfare.

Partisanship should have its limits. The benefit of the community is paramount, the profit of a party is a smaller consideration. Of all people under the sun, we think the majority of Utah's people should see this distinction in its true light. Right is higher than party, necessity is stronger than opinion, truth is mightier than expediency, and should prevail over smaller and temporary things.

WATER AND THE CROPS.

While Salt Lake City finds itself in a critical position on the question of water supply, there are other parts of the country sufficiently hard pressed to make the water problem a subject of serious consideration. Notwithstanding the recent heavy rains in the Northwest, the loss through drought was so great as to cut off the prospective wheat supply fully one-third. And in the corn belt of Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, where the wheat crop turned out well, the recent scarcity of water has seriously injured the corn yield, and thus increased the demand on the wheat supply. Of course the latter is not run so short as to threaten a real scarcity of foodstuffs, but it is sufficiently below the prospect of three months ago to insure a substantial rise in prices.

The absence of rain in various sections has done more than touch the wheat and corn. In all the districts affected, the loss in vegetables has been quite heavy. In this respect Utah has been a considerable sufferer, and a general shortage of crops from the yield expected sixty days ago is now looked on as a certainty. This shrinkage may not be enough to class as a disaster, but it comes as a serious burden.

The cause of this falling off in the limited water supply, not altogether that there has not been enough of the fluid during the year, but that it has not been distributed by nature at the season profitable to the agriculturists. And this very fact brings to the front again the suggestion of a systematic utilization of the waters that are within reach. There is not a gardener, orchardist or farmer, but can see now the vast benefit to Utah that well filled artificial reservoirs would have been. Some sections of the State, it is true, show little prospect for a development in this line; but there are many others in an entirely different situation.

In the face of the existing condition, is there not a large number of agriculturists, particularly in the northern part of Utah, who feel that a little outlay on their part in constructing storage reservoirs, large and small, would be money well invested? The example of many who have tried it

stands as a most encouraging invitation for further efforts in this line.

Just here is another suggestion about the shrinkage in food supply. There are some people here, and the number is much greater than it was a couple of decades ago, who always have a year's breadstuff or more on hand. This number can be still further increased to the general advantage. If a majority of families in Utah had wheat or flour ahead for a year—which could be arranged with an effort—what a lot of pinching would be avoided when a season of scarcity came! Some might not be able to make this provision, but it is safe to say that in the larger cities of the State, there is more spent by some families, not provided for, on an excess of summer amusements than would buy a year's flour.

These folks, as well as those who have failed to take advantage of the water reservoir system, might learn a lesson in the present limited water and crop situation, by comparing their own condition with that of others more thrifty, but having no greater opportunities in the directions we have named.

THE VICTORY AT TIEN TSIN

If, as has been claimed, the Chinese are a nation of philosophers, they will learn a lesson by the occurrences at Tien Tsin the past few days. The allied forces there are outnumbered ten to one. In the native city, the Chinese garrison was three times as great as the allied forces outside the walls. The persistent bombardment by the Mongolian batteries compelled the internationalists to attack as a measure of self-preservation. All day Friday the assault was pressed, but the allies were defeated with severe loss. That was the day Col. Liacum fell. But though defeated in that engagement, the allies were not beaten. On Saturday the fight was renewed by the reduced forces against the augmented garrison. The experiences of the previous day were profited by, and the attack was pressed home. Once a breach was made in the walls, nothing behind them could withstand the fierce onslaught of the western soldiery. The Chinese were routed, and victory rested with the internationalists. Their loss was heavy, but they inflicted greater damage than they had to bear.

What will the "nation of philosophers" do? They have been taught that defeat will not be submitted to by the allied powers; that while reverses may come, the fighting will be pressed to ultimate victory; that though driven back, the men who compose the allied army do not go down in discouragement, but increase their efforts till they triumph. The Chinese know that the present force is but an advance guard, that the allied army is now the weakest it will be till this whole matter is settled. Will the leaders now in power in China profit by this lesson and this knowledge, and adopt a policy other than the extermination of foreigners, which now they must see cannot succeed? If the Chinese leaders are wise in their time, this trouble will end quickly; if they are foolish they will keep it up further. The decision as to whether they are philosophers or fools cannot be deferred.

From the standpoint of civilization and humanity, the defeat of the Chinese at Tien Tsin is a most opportune event. If they had been victorious, or if the allies had failed to persist in the attack begun, then the anti-foreign movement in China would have spread southward in an irresistible wave that would have brought death to thousands of foreigners in the Chinese empire. As it is, this anticipated massacre is checked. The Chinese are otherwise engaged in giving their attention to the defeat they have suffered. In this respect the allied force at Tien Tsin probably has accomplished much more than it realizes, since it is unable to view the situation in other parts of the empire, as others do. Possibly the present victory will confine hostilities to the area already occupied by the military camps, from Tien Tsin to Peking.

Bad as is the news of war anywhere, yet when war exists, such news as this is good. It points the way to better fortunes for the internationalists than they have known heretofore since the present trouble began. It breaks the parallel which many have sought to make between the South African war and the present conflict, in that it deprives the Chinese, who have surprised the world by the extent of their armament, of the effects of a real victory. The Boers and the Chinese are not on the same plane. The former retained the advantages of reverses inflicted on their enemy until the latter overcame them by augmentation of numbers and armament. But the Chinese, as an inferior race, made no such durable success. They have been beaten, with every advantage except that of superiority of race on their side. The victory of the internationalists at Tien Tsin is another demonstration of the fact that the Chinese are not in a situation to overrun the world, though they may give considerable trouble to a foreign foe in their own land. In nothing, however, that the allies have done well, it will not do to think of relaxation of international effort. This victory is only a beginning of the work which must be carried on in vigor to the end.

Stories about Saitair and matters there will be taken with a grain of salt. There is no war in China, only Boer matches. There are no prize fights in Greater New York; only boxing matches. What blessed things are synonyms!

W. T. Stead says the Europeans in China have forgotten the Golden Rule. It may be, but they will remember the Chinese rule and the Chinese will be made to know of their remembrance.

May be that the foreigners in Peking were safe on July 9th; until Chinese official dispatches are confirmed by direct news from the foreigners themselves, no one will believe they are safe. England, according to house of commons lobbies gossip, has ordered the seizure of Li Hung Chang on the ground that he is in sympathy with the anti-foreign movement, and may deport him to India. England, sea girt and world encircling England, in this case will be under the same necessity as

of catching the rabbit before she cooks it.

The full blood leaders of the Five Nations are preparing to hold a green corn dance in order to keep the Indians away from the commission and prevent enrolling. There is nothing better calculated to make a man dance than green corn unless it be green cucumbers.

The war in China (and there is war there, no official recognition to the contrary notwithstanding) bids fair to soon involve the navies of the various powers. It will be a splendid opportunity to study the influence of sea power on history. Only those governments possessing large navies, except Russia, can hope to operate successfully in China. Great as has been the impetus given to navy building in the last few years, the present trouble in China is destined to give a heretofore undreamed of impetus to it.

William T. Stead says, speaking of the Chinese situation, that the colored races have awakened to a realization of the fact that there is no inherent superiority in the white races, but that their superiority lies in the fact that they have better weapons. And Mr. Stead seems to adopt this view. The white races are superior to the colored ones, and the single fact that they do have better weapons, and invent and make them, proves their superiority. It is not necessary to cite any further facts in proof of this.

It is said that Emperor Williams is detestful to the French General Doda he put in command of the allied forces in China. It is a great compliment to France, and the Paris government should accept it as such. The purpose on the Emperor's part, no doubt, is to placate an ancient enemy, one whose chief ambition for thirty years has been the reconquest of Alsace and Lorraine. Germany has been most conciliatory towards France for many years, and now the Emperor has given a new proof of his desire to live on friendly terms with his powerful western neighbor.

The fact is noted and commented upon that in the presence of the great crime in China and the seeming imminence of a world-wide war, Europe and her people and press are calm and in no wise excited. In the presence of a great danger or a crisis that may change the hopes, the aspirations, the career of a lifetime, most men become sobered and all fear leaves them; a feeling of awe may and most usually does pervade them. And so it is with nations, for nations are but aggregations of men. The coolness and reserve and absence of excitement among the foreign governments best show how grave and momentous is the situation in China.

THE CHINESE NOTE

Chicago Times-Herald. The imperial decree sent out by the privy council at Peking to the Chinese ministers abroad is an extraordinary but not an ingenious document. It is padded to an unconscionable extent with words that mean nothing, is as evasive as oriental cunning can make it, and is very plainly inspired by fear. Those cringing officials know that they are not altogether guiltless and that a day of reckoning is fast approaching.

St. Paul Pioneer Press. The so-called imperial decree of the privy council of the empire is an elaborate explanation of the conceded inability of the Chinese government to put down the uprising of the Boxers and other anarchists, or to restrain them in their crusade of murder and outrage against the foreign residents, especially the missionaries and their Chinese converts.

Kansas City Star. The evasive edict of the government at Peking only serves to increase the fear and indignation of the civilized world. To send out a carefully written edict, attempting to justify the conduct of the Chinese government, without telling what has become of the foreigners in Peking, is peculiarly Chinese.

Cleveland Plaindealer. The Chinese government version of the trouble has at last made its appearance. The story is a plausible one, but how far based on fact and how much concocted for effect on the further movements of the international forces it is difficult to judge. The evident aim is to place responsibility on the insurgents and the foreigners. If the foreign legations in Peking escape alive the proportion of truth and falsehood of the Chinese official statement will perhaps be discovered. If they are not found alive, then the Chinese official dispatches will stand as a series of amazing lies. Skilled as Chinese officials are reported to be in deception and equivocation, such monumental and useless lying would seem to be incredible.

American Policy in China. New York Post. Secretary Hay has done well to make public the notes of our government to the other powers, defining the attitude of the United States in the Chinese difficulty. This is "the new diplomacy" in one of its happier moments—publishing diplomatic correspondence, not in order to browbeat or exasperate a country with which we are in controversy, but for the purpose of taking the people and the whole world in confidence, with the object of solidifying support of a wise and humane and unselfish policy.

Baltimore Sun. It is to be hoped that neither the example of foreign powers nor the urgency of our own jingoism will cause the administration at Washington to deviate a hair's breadth from the sober policy of moderation and justice already announced by Secretary Hay.

Chicago Times-Herald. Secretary Hay's note on China is one of the most significant documents that has ever been issued from the state department. Though it is addressed to our ambassadors and ministers abroad, it contains the mandate that they shall communicate its contents to the foreign ministers of the governments to which they are accredited and it amounts almost to a prohibition upon those governments. At the same time it refers to concurrent action between the powers in a way that does not betray the slightest fear of "entangling alliances."

Worcester (Mass.) Gazette. The United States government has shown its hand on the Chinese question and its future attitude is clearly marked. It stands for the integrity of the empire, with equal commercial privileges for all. The fact that such a position has been taken is certain to have great influence in determining the policy to be followed after the present disturbances are put down. An exact line of action cannot be marked out at

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